



Flowering of Nicodemus

From the Superintendent

Many thanks to all of you for the warm welcome I have received since arriving at Nicodemus in late March of this year. As many of you may know Sherda Williams is now in Ohio at James Garfield National Historic Site. I have been in contact with her and am happy to tell you she arrived all in one piece. Her work is exciting, and her dog is adjusting well!

I am serving as the “Acting Superintendent” during the gap between Sherda’s leaving and the arrival of the new Superintendent- planned for mid-summer. This position is a new one for me. With the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers and Trails program in Milwaukee, my role was to NOT work with National Park units, rather, to help communities with their trail and open space planning. Consequently, while I am thrilled to be involved with the Nicodemus Community, I am a bit rusty with park operational procedures. Bear with me!

Given my short tenure here, I cannot and should not make major decisions regarding the future of the park, but I have been asked to look at Nicodemus National Historic Site through the eyes of a community planner (my role with the Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program) and to offer action strategy recommendations to our Regional Director Ernie Quintana. I welcome your thoughts and comments regarding Nicodemus, and how the National Park Service can contribute in its role as a member of the Nicodemus community. My phone number is 785 839 4321. Email is mark_weaver@nps.gov. I’m usually in the office between 8 and 5, Monday-Friday.

Otherwise, my role here is to “keep things moving along”. Many thanks to the park staff- Phyllis Howard, Robert Brogden, and Michelle Huff as well as Kevin McMurry and the staff at Ft. Larned for their support and guidance. I hope I haven’t impacted their daily routines too much with my many questions about park history and operations.

So, my thanks to all of you for your warm welcome that you showed to me. Please do call, email or stop by to visit. It would be great to meet you all.

Acting Superintendent at Nicodemus National Historic Site

Nicodemus National Historic Site is pleased to welcome Mark Weaver as “Acting Superintended”. Mark is a native of Oscoda, Michigan, spending his youth along the shores of Lake Huron on the edge of the Huron National Forest. College years were divided between Kalamazoo College (Spanish coursework) and Michigan State University (Landscape Architecture degree). After four years on the west coast (Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles) with private Landscape Architecture firms he returned to Michigan to work for JJR in Ann Arbor where he met his wife, Stephanie. A year later they were married and on their way to Blacksburg Virginia for his graduate degree in Landscape Architecture. Mark focused on pre-columbian landscape history with a particular emphasis on Mayan cities and how the presence of water influenced urban design.

From there, Mark and Stephanie made their way to Auburn Alabama where Mark served as assistant Professor at Auburn University. It was there that Mark and Stephanie adopted their first of two sons- Samuel Carter. After five years at Auburn, they made the big move to the National Park Service (NPS) to serve as Park Landscape Architect at Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Three years later, they welcomed their second son, Benjamin Michael. At Ozark NSR, Mark provided design guidance for facilities at the park and professional guidance in the development of their new visitor center. The Visitor Center was constructed soon after accepting a position with the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With the RTCA program, Mark works with communities across the state to develop

trail plans, greenway plans and green infrastructure networks.

Additionally, Mark has consulted with the Department of Interior International Technical Assistance program, serving as a professional consultant to projects in Copan National Park Honduras, Sierra de Lacandon National Park Guatemala, El Mirador National Park Guatemala and Galapagos National Park Ecuador.

Mark's wife Stephanie has recently returned to school to get a degree in Information Technology. Sam is now 17 and soon to enter his senior year at Pius XI High School in Milwaukee. Ben, 12, will enter 7th grade at Whitman Middle School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Both boys are on their wrestling teams and are hooked on video games.



Acting Superintendent Mark Weaver

The Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry Traveling Exhibit is now at Nicodemus National Historic Site

We are delighted to have the traveling Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry exhibit here at Nicodemus National Historic Site. The exhibit will be in the Township Hall (temporary Visitor Center) May 26, 2008 through June 23, 2008 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. It is on loan from Fort Leavenworth Public Affairs Office. The exhibit has traveled over 200,000 miles, crisscrossing the country. Its mission remains the same—education—ensuring that the contributions of African American soldiers are reflected in the history of our nation.

As Colonel Benjamin Grierson, Commander of the 10th Cavalry From 1866-1888, said upon leaving his troops, "The officers and enlisted men have cheerfully endured many hardships and privations, and in the

midst of great dangers steadfastly maintained a most gallant and zealous devotion to duty, and they may well be proud of the record made, and rest assured that the hard work undergone in the accomplishment of such important and valuable service to their country...cannot fail."

On Monday May 26th, Mr. Thomas Wellington will offer a one hour presentation in uniform on the Buffalo Soldiers at 3:00 pm. He will have on display his collection of Buffalo Soldier memorabilia.

On Saturday May 31st, Mr. Gil Alexander will offer a one hour presentation on the Buffalo Soldiers portraying his Great Grandfather Samuel Garland at 3:00 pm.

To learn more about this event and others, contact Nicodemus National Historic Site at 785-839-4233 or visit us on-line at www.nps.gov/nico. The park is located on Highway 24, 13 miles east of Hill City and 19 miles west of Stockton. Our hours of operation are daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year' Day.

News From Our Park Partners

Nicodemus Historical Society

The Society will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary during this year's Emancipation Proclamation/Homecoming celebration. Continuous work is being done to maintain the exhibits at the Historical Society. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Historical Society at 611 S. 5th Street, 785-839-4280, or e-mail nichis@ruraltel.net.

Nicodemus Township Board

Everything is greening up and growing due to the occasional rains we have gotten! The Board has hopes that we will not have to prod property owners this year about keeping up with their mowing. If the moisture continues on a regular basis, mowing will be a big job for us all!

We have made arrangements to get the playground in ship shape condition with some much needed repairs and additions. There are also some trees in the park area which need some attention.

The Board hopes that you all have a pleasant spring and look forward to seeing you in July.

Outstanding Volunteers Honored By National Park Service

WASHINGTON, DC – The sixth annual George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service were presented on May 8 in Washington, DC.

The National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and Take Pride in America® recognized the tremendous contributions of Dr. Jennifer Dow, the Flight 93 Volunteer Ambassadors, and the Mount Rainier National Park Volunteer Program.

“The National Park Service is indebted to everyone who selflessly gives his or her time and talent to the parks,” said National Park Service Volunteer Coordinator Joy Pietschmann. “Those honored today are wonderful examples of the creativity and energy of our volunteers.”

The George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by an Individual was presented to Dr. Jennifer Dow. Dow, an emergency room physician in Alaska, serves as volunteer medical director for Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Katmai National Parks and Preserves. She assists the emergency medical programs at each site and has made invaluable contributions to the Denali mountaineering program. In addition to her regular volunteer hours, Dow is on call 24 hours a day for emergency medical consultation during the peak months of the climbing season.

The George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for a Group was given to the Flight 93 Volunteer Ambassadors. The ambassadors are a self formed group that provides visitor services at the highly emotional Flight 93 National Memorial. Currently, the park has only one paid guide for 144,000 annual visitors. The ambassadors, who donated about 3,500 hours last year, are primarily citizens from the rural Shanksville, PA area where United Airlines Flight 93 was forced down on September 11, 2001. Their ad hoc group was started shortly after the crash to assist visitors wishing to pay their respects to the flight victims. Working without basic utilities at the temporary memorial, this flexible group even gave tours in snow storms and by flashlight after dark.

The George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by a Park VIP Program went to Mount Rainier National Park. The Mount Rainier Recovery Initiative started after 18 inches of rain in

36 hours devastated park resources in November, 2006. In partnership with the Student Conservation Association, the park recruited and trained more than 700 volunteers to assist in the rebuilding of roads, trails, and campgrounds. The park also has a strong cadre of regular volunteers who help with basic operations such as patrolling backcountry trails, staffing visitor centers, assisting climbers, and running campgrounds. Overall, 1,724 volunteers contributed more than 84,000 hours of service to the park in 2007.

Many award winners expressed gratitude for being allowed to share their passions with others. Donna Glassor, a founding member of the Flight 93 Ambassadors, said, “We don’t do it because we have to, we do it because it is an honor and we want to. I never imagined I would be able to serve my nation in this way.”

The Hartzog Awards are named for former National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. who established the Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Program in 1970. Last year, 163,000 volunteers nationwide devoted 5.4 million hours of work valued at more than \$100 million to national parks.

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation worked together to organize this volunteer recognition effort. Take Pride in America® is a national partnership that aims to seek, support, and recognize volunteers who work to improve public areas.

The 2008 Junior Ranger Essay Contest Has Come To An End

The Junior Ranger Essay Contest helps America’s youth discover the value of conservation and preservation by encouraging them to share their big ideas for protecting our national parks. National parks are the perfect places to explore nature, discover exciting animals and plants, learn about our shared history, and have fun in the outdoors. These special places need everyone’s help to remain America’s greatest treasures.

Thank you to everyone who wrote an essay! Read the winning essays from the 2008 Junior Ranger Essay Contest at <http://www.nationalparks.org/get-involved/essay-contest/?fa=2008-winners>.

The 2009 Essay Contest will begin early next year.



National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Federal Job Announcements (USAJOBS)

www.usajobs.opm.gov

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National Women's Month at Nicodemus National Historic Site

For National Women's Month on March 30th, Nicodemus National Historic Site was pleased to have Ms. Angela Bates present a one hour presentation on "[African American Women and Their Church Hats: From Head Rags to Crowns](#)". She covered the history of African American women and their hair and head coverings. She shared this rich history by starting with head rags worn by African American women during slavery, to the now beautiful and sometimes outlandish church hats. She will cover the evolution of hair styles from cornrows to straightening, to weaves, and dreadlocks. She shared why African American women wear their hair the way they do and why they wore head rags and now church crowns. Ms. Bates' presentation has entertained and educated women from all ethnic groups and cultures. She had on showcase hair tools and dressings used by most African American women. She also had on display church hats and her favorite collection – cowboy hats.

The presentation was well attended by visitors from the surrounding areas – Plainville, Stockton, Bogue, Hill City, Nicodemus, and the Nicodemus Township.